

Message Text

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42

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, UK

SUBJECT: JENKINS ANNOUNCES ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES

SUMMARY: HOME SECRETARY JENKINS YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED PROGRAM TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN BRITAIN WHICH WILL SHARPLY INCREASE POLICE POWERS AT THE EXPENSE OF CIVIL LIBERTY. PROPOSALS RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, BUT WERE CRITICIZED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE HMG SHOULD RESTORE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR TERRORISTS AND IMPOSE NATION-WIDE PERSONAL IDENTITY REQUIREMENT. THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE ANTI-TERRORIST BILL NOVEMBER 28, BUT OPPOSITION AMENDMENTS ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ISSUE MAY DELAY PASSAGE. TERRORISTS, APPARENTLY FROM PROVISIONAL IRA, UNDERScoreD THEIR ABILITY TO STRIKE WITH IMPUNITY WITH THREE EXPLOSIONS AND ONE FIRE BOMBING IN LONDON WHICH INJURED 21 PERSONS. END SUMMARY

1. HOME SECRETARY ROY JENKINS NOVEMBER 25 ANNOUNCED FAR-REACHING PROGRAM TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN BRITAIN.

JENKINS, WHO CHARACTERIZED "PREVENTION OF TERRORISM BILL" AS "DRACONIAN" AND FOLLOWED ITS INTRODUCTION WITH NATIONAL TELEVISION ADDRESS APPEALING FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT, OUTLINED PROPOSALS WHICH, INTER ALIA, WOULD:

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-- BAN IRA AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS IDENTIFIED

BY HOME SECRETARY AND IMPOSE PENALTIES OF FROM 6 MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT, WITH FINES, FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OR SUPPORT OF SUCH GROUPS;

-- PROHIBIT WEARING OF IRA UNIFORMS, INSIGNIA OR CARRYING IRA BANNERS, VIOLATION BEING PUNISHABLE BY 3 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT PLUS FINE;

-- TIGHTEN CONTROLS ON IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL BETWEEN UK, NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRISH REPUBLIC, WITH INCREASED AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE OR EXPEL SUSPECTED TERRORISTS AND COLLABORATORS; AND

-- PERMIT POLICE TO ARREST SUSPECTS WITHOUT WARRANT AND TO DETAIN THEM FOR UP TO 48 HOURS ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY, WHILE GIVING HOME SECRETARY POWER TO AUTHORIZE FURTHER DETENTION UP TO TOTAL OF SEVEN DAYS.

IN TELEVISION BROADCAST JENKINS ALSO CALLED FOR IRISH REPUBLIC TO DO ITS "FULL PART IN THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TERRORIST OPERATIONS."

2. HMG'S ANTI-TERRORIST BILL WAS GENERALLY WELL-RECEIVED BY CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL LEADERSHIP, THOUGH SOME CONSERVATIVE BACKBENCHERS CRITICIZED IT FOR FAILING TO INCLUDE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR CONVICTED TERRORISTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM. GOVERNMENT PLANS TO COMPLETE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL BY NOVEMBER 28, BUT OPPOSITION AMENDMENTS CALLING FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT COULD DELAY PASSAGE.

3. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO CONTROL TERRORISTS WAS ILLUSTRATED BY EXPLOSION OF THREE SMALL DEVICES AND FIRE BOMBING OF SHOP IN CENTRAL LONDON EVENING OF NOVEMBER 25. THE THREE SMALL BOMBS, WHICH WERE APPARENTLY TIME-OPERATED, WERE PLACED IN POSTAL BOXES AT KING'S CROSS, PICCADILLY CIRCUS AND VICTORIA. THESE EXPLOSIONS, WHICH POLICE ATTRIBUTED TO PROVISIONAL IRA, LEFT 21 INJURED, THOUGH ALL BUT TWO REPORTEDLY WERE RELEASED FROM HOSPITALS FOLLOWING TREATMENT.

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